What is claimed is:

1. A decoder for decoding compressed data comprising:

a memory arranged to store the compressed data and to store at least one of operating data and operating code for a plurality of decompression algorithms requiring different amounts of memory for the operating data and operating code and requiring different amounts of memory to store compressed data corresponding to a predetermined duration of uncompressed data; and

a processor arranged to select one of the decompression algorithms, to allocate an amount of the memory for storing compressed data and at least one of operating data and operating code depending on the decompression algorithm selected and to decode the compressed data stored in the allocated amount of memory.

2. The decoder of claim 1 wherein the allocated portion of memory comprises a first portion arranged to store at least one of the operating data and operating code for the selected decompression algorithm and a second portion arranged to store an amount of compressed data suitable for the selected decompression algorithm.

3. The decoder of claim 1 wherein the compressed data comprises compressed voice data.

4. The decoder of claim 3 wherein the decompression algorithms comprise voice data decompression algorithms.

5. The decoder of claim 4 wherein the decoder is arranged to decode compressed data resulting from a phone call and wherein the processor is arranged to select the decompression algorithm and to allocate the amount of memory during the phone call.

6. The decoder of claim 1 wherein the compressed data comprises identification data identifying the compression algorithm used to encode the compressed data and wherein the processor is arranged to select the

decompression algorithm in response to the identification data.

7. The decoder of claim 1 wherein the processor is further arranged to remove jitter from the compressed data stored in the allocated amount of memory.

8. The decoder of claim 1 wherein the memory is arranged to store operating data and operating code.

9. A method of allocating memory for decoding compressed data comprising:

storing at least one of operating data and operating code for a plurality of decompression algorithms requiring different amounts of memory for the operating data and operating code and requiring different amounts of memory to store compressed data corresponding to a predetermined duration of uncompressed data;

selecting one of the decompression algorithms;

allocating an amount of the memory for storing compressed data and at least one of operating data and operating code depending on the decompression algorithm selected;

storing at last a portion of the compressed data in the allocated amount of memory; and

decoding the stored compressed data using the selected decompression algorithm.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said allocating comprises:

allocating a first amount of memory for storing the at least one of operating data and operating code for the selected decompression algorithm; and

allocating a second amount of memory for storing an amount of compressed data suitable for the selected decompression algorithm.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the compressed data comprises compressed voice data.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the decompression algorithms comprise voice data decompression algorithms.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the decoding occurs during a phone call and wherein said selecting and allocating occurs during the phone call.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the compressed data comprises identification data identifying the compression algorithm used to encode the compressed data and wherein said selecting comprises selecting the decompression algorithm in response to the identification data.

15. The method of claim 9 further comprising removing jitter from the compressed data stored in the allocated amount of memory.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the storing at least one of operating data and operating code comprises storing both operating data and operating code.

17. Apparatus for allocating memory for decoding compressed data comprising:

means for storing the compressed data and for storing at least one of operating data and operating code for a plurality of decompression algorithms requiring different amounts of memory for the operating data and operating code and requiring different amounts of memory to store compressed data corresponding to a predetermined duration of uncompressed data; and

means for selecting one of the decompression algorithms and for allocating an amount of the memory for storing compressed data and at least one of operating data and operating code depending on the decompression algorithm selected.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said means for selecting and allocating comprises means for allocating a first amount of memory for storing at least one of the operating data and operating code for the selected decompression algorithm and for allocating a second amount of memory for storing an amount of compressed data suitable for the selected decompression algorithm.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the compressed data comprises compressed voice data.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the decompression algorithms comprise voice data decompression algorithms.

21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the decoding occurs during a phone call and wherein the means for selecting and allocating operates during the phone call.

22. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the compressed data comprises identification data identifying the compression algorithm used to encode the compressed data and wherein said means for selecting and allocating comprises means for selecting the decompression algorithm in response to the identification data.

23. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising means for removing jitter from the compressed data stored in the allocated amount of memory.

24. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the means for storing comprises means for storing the operating data and the operating code.

25. A computer readable media encoded with executable instructions representing a computer program that can cause a computer to perform the tasks of:

storing at least one of operating data and operating code for a plurality of decompression algorithms requiring different amounts of memory for the operating data and operating code and requiring different amounts of memory to store compressed data

corresponding to a predetermined duration of uncompressed data;

selecting one of the decompression algorithms;

allocating an amount of the memory for storing compressed data and at least one of operating data and operating code depending on the decompression algorithm selected;

storing at last a portion of the compressed data in the allocated amount of memory; and

decoding the stored compressed data using the selected decompression algorithm.

26. The media of claim 25 wherein said allocating comprises:

allocating a first amount of memory for storing at least one of the operating data and operating code for the selected decompression algorithm; and

allocating a second amount of memory for storing an amount of compressed data suitable for the selected decompression algorithm.

27. The media of claim 25 wherein the compressed data comprises compressed voice data.

28. The media of claim 27 wherein the decompression algorithms comprise voice data decompression algorithms.

29. The media of claim 28 wherein the decoding occurs during a phone call and wherein said selecting and allocating occurs during the phone call.

30. The media of claim 25 wherein the compressed data comprises identification data identifying the compression algorithm used to encode the compressed data and wherein said selecting comprises selecting the decompression algorithm in response to the identification data.

31. The media of claim 25 wherein the instructions can further cause a computer to perform the task of removing jitter from the compressed data stored in the allocated amount of memory.

32. The media of claim 25 wherein the task of storing at least one of operating data and operating code comprises the task of storing both operating data and operating code.